Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine with a commutator valve and variable volume working chambers, and a plurality of flow paths, each of which ~~is~~ connecte~~d~~s ~~by~~ a respective one of the variable volume working chambers to the ~~flow path to a said~~ commutator valve, which ~~alternately~~ connects each ~~the~~ working chamber alternately to a high pressure manifold and a low pressure manifold, and a plurality of valve members, wherein each of the ~~a~~ valve member~~s~~ is disposed in one of the flow path~~s~~ between ~~each chamber and~~ the commutator valve and ~~wherein the valve is operable to selectively isolate~~ the working chamber ~~from the respective commutator valve~~ corresponding to the one flow path.

2. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ each valve member is electronically controlled.

3. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 2, wherein a controller for controlling ~~the~~ each valve member receives an input signal of a phase angle of a shaft of the machine or at least one electronic pulse per revolution which informs the controller that the shaft is passing a known phase angle.

4. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein the

controller is arranged to choose whether to actuate one of the valve members, each time the corresponding working chamber ~~volume~~ is at its minimum volume, such that the one valve is closed at time close to the time the working chamber begins its expansion stroke, if it is desired to isolate the working chamber from the commutator valve.

5. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller sums a previous flow demand to create a total displacement demand and compares it with an actual displacement error and the controller chooses either to isolate the corresponding working chamber or to leave it active in order to minimize ongoing accumulated displacement error.

6. (Previously Presented) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller reads a demand from an external signal line and decides whether to isolate one of the working chambers, as they reach the minimum volume condition, in order to regulate one of speed, torque, volumetric flow rate, power and volume displaced per revolution.

7. (Previously Presented) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the controller makes decisions to isolate working chambers on the basis of sensed shaft speed so that the ratio of working chambers to idle chambers decreases, according to a pre-determined function, as the machine speeds up, in order to either maintain a

constant level of throughput flow or one which rises less quickly than the shaft speed increase would indicate.

8. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the machine is arranged to work as a motor, and the controller can choose to close the valve member some fraction of the way into an expansion stroke of the chamber, such that the corresponding chamber is connected to the commutator valve for only a fraction of the expansion stroke such that the volume of fluid working to drive the load in that expansion stroke is a fraction of the full geometric displacement of the chamber.

9. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the machine is arranged to work as a pump, and the controller can choose to close the valve member some fraction of the way into the expansion stroke of the chamber, such that the corresponding chamber is connected to the commutator valve for only a fraction of a full working stroke, such that part of an expansion stroke consists of pulling a partial vacuum in the corresponding chamber, such that when a next contraction stroke begins, the corresponding chamber does not act as a pump immediately but at some fraction of the way into the contraction stroke, such that the contraction stroke displaces only a fraction of the full geometric displacement of the corresponding chamber into the commutator valve.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine as claimed in claim 4, wherein the

controller is operable to reduce the loss of energy on the compressed fluid by closing the valve member just before the corresponding chamber reaches its maximum volume condition so that the remaining expansion can depressurize ~~de-pressurise~~ the fluid contained within the corresponding chamber before the commutating valve port is opened to the low-pressure manifold.

11. (Currently Amended) A fluid-working machine, comprising:

a plurality of variable volume working chambers;

a first fluid manifold;

a second fluid manifold;

a fluid controller connected with the working chambers, wherein in

a first position the fluid controller provides a fluid path between successive ones of the working chambers and the first manifold and blocks the fluid path between successive ones of the working chambers and the second manifold, and in a second position the fluid controller provides a fluid path between successive ones of the working chambers and the second manifold and blocks the fluid path between successive ones of the working chambers and the first manifold;

a plurality of valves, each of said valves being disposed between the fluid controller and one of the working chambers,

wherein each valve is operable to impede fluid flow between the respective working chamber and the fluid controller.

12. (Currently Amended) The fluid working machine of claim 11 comprising a controller operable to selectively control operation of each of the valves between an open position in which the valve does not substantially impede fluid flow between the working chamber and the fluid controller and a closed position in which the valve impedes fluid flow between the working chamber and the fluid controller.

13. (Currently Amended) The fluid working machine of claim 12 comprising a sensor operable to detect an operational characteristic of the fluid working machine, wherein the controller selectively controls the operation of each of the valves in response to the detected operational characteristic.

14. Canceled

15. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claim 11 comprising a controller operable to control the plurality of valves to selectively control which of the valves are open, thereby facilitating fluid flow between the respective working chamber and the manifold, and which

valves are closed, thereby impeding fluid flow between the respective working chamber and the manifold.

16. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claim 12 comprising a sensor operable to detect and operation characteristic of the fluid working machine and the controller selectively operates each of the plurality of valves in response to the detected operational characteristic.

17. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claim 16 comprising a shaft, wherein the operational characteristic relates to the position of the shaft.

18. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claims 17 wherein the operational characteristic relates to a phase angle of the shaft.

19. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claim 11 wherein each working chamber is operable between a minimum chamber volume and a maximum chamber volume and wherein the controller is operable to selectively operate the valve so when the valve is actuated from an open position to a closed position the valve is closed when the working chamber is approximately at the minimum volume.

20. (Previously Presented) The fluid working machine of claim 11 wherein the first manifold is a high pressure manifold and the second manifold is a low pressure manifold and the fluid controller comprises a commutator valve comprising a rotatable port plate.